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Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

Montana Grain Movement

Montana wheat shipped to out-of-state destinations during July 2007 through December 2007 was 81.2 million bushels, which was up 34 percent from the previous year.

Just over 87 percent of wheat shipped during this period headed west, totaling 70.8 million bushels, up 34 percent from a year earlier. Movement to eastern destinations during this period totaled 6.8 million bushels, up 65 percent from a year ago. Other and unknown destinations totaled 3.7 million bushels, unchanged from 3.7 million bushels a year ago.

Wheat shipped by rail amounted to 79.2 million bushels, 98 percent of total shipments. Wheat trucked during this period was 2.0 million bushels compared with 2.8 million bushels last year. The percentage of wheat shipped by truck was 2 percent of the total, which was down 3 percentage points from the previous year.

Montana barley shipped to out-of-state destinations during the July 2007 to December 2007 period was 7.7 million bushels, down 18 percent from the same period last year.

Shipments of barley out of Montana headed for western destinations were up 7 percent from the same period last year, at 2.1 million bushels. Shipments to eastern destinations were down 5 percent from last year at 4.0 million bushels. Shipments to other destinations went down 1.7 million bushels from last year to 1.5 million bushels this year.

Barley shipped by rail amounted to 7.5 million bushels, down 1.7 million bushels from last year. Barley hauled by rail was 97 percent of total movement, down 1 percentage point from the same period last year.

2007 Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 16.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during 2007, unchanged from 2006. There were 19,400 cattle slaughtered during 2007, unchanged from the previous year. The total live weight of 23.1 million pounds was down slightly from a year earlier. The average live weight was down 5 pounds to 1,190 pounds.

There were 13,800 hogs slaughtered in Montana, down 9 percent from 2006. Total live weight of 3.5 million pounds was down 8 percent from last year. The average live weight was 250 pounds per head compared with 248 the previous year. Sheep slaughter amounted to 3,500 head, down 100 head from 2006. Total live weight of all sheep and lambs slaughtered in 2007 increased 9 percent from 2006 to 399,000 pounds. The average live weight, of 114 pounds, was 12 pounds higher than the previous year.

The number of federally inspected slaughter plants in Montana on January 1, 2008 was 8, unchanged from 2007. There were 145 non-federally inspected plants on January 1, 2008, down 51 plants from the same date a year ago.

Total red meat production for the United States totaled 48.8 billion pounds in 2007, 2 percent higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 48.7 billion pounds. On-farm production totaled 135 million pounds.

Beef production totaled 26.5 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Veal production totaled 146 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year. Pork production, at 22.0 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 188 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2006.

U.S. commercial cattle slaughter during 2007 totaled 34.3 million head, up 2 percent from 2006, with federal inspection comprising 98.4 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,269 pounds, down 2 pounds from a year ago. Steers comprised 51.3 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, heifers 30.3 percent, dairy cows 7.4 percent, other cows 9.4 percent, and bulls 1.6 percent. (continued on page two)

Wheat and Barley Shipments Out of Montana from July 2007 through December 2007 1/, 2/

	Barley		Durum Wheat		Hard White Wheat		Soft White Wheat		Spring Wheat		Winter Wheat		Total Wheat	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Shipments by Truck	(000) Bushels													
West	63	65	5	3	68	76	9	--	505	529	1323	700	1,910	1,308
East	98	128	138	144	2	--	6	1	9	16	19	7	174	168
Other & Unknown	19	--	9	14	--	1	--	--	338	208	335	288	682	511
Total Shipments	180	193	152	161	70	77	15	1	852	753	1,677	995	2,766	1,987
Shipments by rail														
West	1,991	2,125	242	288	427	290	--	--	16,357	26,301	33,939	42,587	50,965	69,467
East	4,090	3,851	3,673	6,469	--	133	--	--	263	--	--	--	3,936	6,602
Other & Unknown	3,141	1,505	1,225	2,042	--	--	--	--	1,364	995	427	128	3,016	3,164
Total Shipments	9,222	7,481	5,140	8,799	427	423	--	--	17,984	27,296	34,366	42,715	57,917	79,233
total by Truck ^ Rail	9,402	7,674	5,292	8,960	497	500	15	1	18,836	28,049	36,043	43,710	60,683	81,220

1/ Data is reported by commercial elevators and licensed truckers and is expanded to represent 100 percent of elevator capacity. 2/ 2006 revised.

2007 Red Meat Production (continued from page one)

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 758,100 head, 7 percent higher than a year ago with 98.2 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 303 pounds, down 39 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter in the U.S. totaled 109.2 million head, 4 percent higher than 2006 with 99.1 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from last year, at 269 pounds. Barrows and gilts comprised 96.5 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.69 million head, was down slightly from the previous year with 93.9 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was unchanged from 2006 at 136 pounds. Lambs and yearlings comprised 95.4 percent of the total federally inspected sheep slaughter.

There were 808 plants slaughtering under federal inspection in the U.S. on January 1, 2008 compared with 795 last year. Of these, 626 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2007 with the 14 largest plants slaughtering 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 618 plants, with the 11 largest plants accounting for 51 percent of the total. Likewise, 6 of the 232 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 63 percent of the total and 4 of the 480 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2007 comprised 68 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 51 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2007, similar to 2006.

2007 Sweet Cherry Production, Utilization, and Value

Montana sweet cherry growers produced a total of 2,430 tons in 2007, 1 percent above the 2006 production of 2,400 tons, and nearly double the 2005 production of 1,230 tons. Of the 2,430 tons produced, 2,160 tons were utilized, far above the 580 tons utilized in 2006 and 83 percent above the 2005 utilized total of 1,180 tons. The value of production for 2007 was $3.3 million compared with $1.1 million in 2006 and $4.2 million in 2005. The average price per ton received for cherries during 2007 was $1,520 compared with $1,850 in 2006 and $3,530 per ton in 2005. In 2007, there were 700 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.47 tons per acre, compared with 2006 when there were 750 bearing acres and an average yield of 3.20 tons per acre, and 2005 when there were 740 bearing acres with an average yield of 1.66 tons per acre.

Sweet cherry producers in the United States harvested 323,670 tons in 2007, 10 percent higher than the 2006 total of 294,160 tons, and 29 percent higher than the 2005 crop of 250,830 tons. Producers utilized 319,190 tons in 2007, 11 percent higher than the 287,520 tons utilized in 2006, and 31 percent higher than the 2005 utilized total of 243,570 tons. Value of production for the 2007 crop totaled $583.7 million, which is 25 percent higher than the $465.2 million in 2006, and 21 percent higher than the 2005 total of $484.3 million. The price per ton was $1,830 in 2007 compared with $1,620 in 2006 and $1,990 in 2005. In 2007 there were 83,550 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.87 tons per acre, compared with 81,600 bearing acres and an average yield per acre of 3.60 tons in 2006, and 78,790 bearing acres with an average yield of 3.18 tons per acre in 2005.

February Red Meat Production

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.3 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during February 2008, down 13 percent from a year ago, and down 8 percent from last month. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,600 head, 11 percent below a year ago. The average live weight of 1,204 pounds decreased 1 pound from last year.

During February, 1,000 hogs were slaughtered, down 100 head from a year ago. The average live weight of 243 pounds was up 18 pounds from last year. February sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, down 100 head from February 2007. The average live weight increased 2 pounds from last year to 113 pounds.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.97 billion pounds in February, up 10 percent from the 3.62 billion pounds produced in February 2007.

Beef production, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.64 million head, up 3 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 11 pounds from the previous year, at 1,285 pounds. Veal production totaled 11.0 million pounds, 9 percent below February a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,100 head, up 4 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was down 36 pounds from last year, at 272 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.90 billion pounds, up 16 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.38 million head, up 16 percent from February 2007. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from the previous year, at 271 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was up 4 percent from February 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 211,400 head, 3 percent above last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 3 pounds from February a year ago.

January to February 2008 commercial red meat production was 8.38 billion pounds, up 9 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 15 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

February Milk Production

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 13.9 billion pounds, up 6.0 percent from February 2007. January revised production at 14.7 billion pounds, was up 2.7 percent from January 2007. The January revision represented an increase of 40 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,653 pounds for February,69 pounds above February 2007.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.42 million head, 136,000 head more than February 2007, and 9,000 head more than January 2008.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on March 1, 2008. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2007 but 1 percent below March 1, 2006. This is the second highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.72 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 9 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.66 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 533,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 11 percent above 2006. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during February, 20 percent below 2007 and 18 percent below 2006.

March 1 Potato Stocks

Montana potato producers held 3.3 million cwt in storage on March 1, 2008, up 6 percent from the previous year. This number represents 89 percent of the 2007 Montana potato crop.

The 13 major potato States held 172 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2008, up 8 percent from last year and 10 percent above March 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 43 percent of the 2007 fall storage States' production, up 2 percentage points from last year. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.05 million cwt on March 1, 2008, 7 percent lower than last year. Klamath Basin includes California and Klamath County, Oregon potato stocks.

Disappearance of 228 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1 was down 1 percent from last year but up 4 percent from 2006. Shrink and loss, at 19.7 million cwt, was down 3 percent from the previous year but 7 percent above the same date in 2006.

Processors have used 123 million cwt of 2007 crop potatoes so far this season, down 3 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon total processing decreased 1 percent from a year ago, as did Maine's total processing. Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing was down 5 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage was 25.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 10 percent from last year but 11 percent above the same date in 2006.

Western States held 129 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, up 13 percent from last year and 11 percent above 2006. Idaho's potato stocks were up 6 percent from last year; Washington's potato sheds held 40 percent more than last year; and Oregon's stocks increased 20 percent from last season. Montana's potato sheds held 6 percent more stocks than last year. California's and Colorado's potato stocks decreased 8 and 16 percent, respectively, from last year.

Central States accounted for 34.6 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, down 3 percent from last year but 13 percent above the same date in 2006. Wisconsin's potato stocks were down 2 percent from last year; North Dakotas's sheds held 19 percent less; and potato stocks in Nebraska were 12 percent below last season. Minnesota's potato stocks increased 2 percent from the same date in 2007 and Michigan's potato sheds held 39 percent more than a year ago.

February Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.13 billion during February 2008, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.05 billion table eggs, and 1.07 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.01 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2008 averaged 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 2,075 eggs, up 4 percent from February 2007.

All layers in the U.S. on March 1, 2008 totaled 343 million, down 2 percent from last year. The 343 million layers consisted of 282 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 57.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.84 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on March 1, 2008, averaged 72.3 eggs per 100 layers, up 1 percent from March 1, 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2008 totaled 37.5 million, up 2 percent from February 2007. Eggs in incubators totaled 36.5 million on March 1, 2008, down 5 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 280 thousand during February 2008, up 69 percent from February 2007. Broiler-type chicks hatched during February 2008 totaled 777 million, up 7 percent from February 2007.

Eggs in incubators totaled 679 million on March 1, 2008, up 2 percent from a year earlier Leading breeders placed 7.43 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during February 2008, up 5 percent from February 2007.

Wheat Supply and Use

Projected U.S. wheat ending stocks for 2007/08 are lowered 30 million bushels this month on higher projected food use and exports. Food use is raised 5 million bushels based on the latest mill grind data from the U.S. Bureau of Census. Hard red spring wheat food use is increased on indications that discounts for spring wheat relative to winter during the first half of the marketing year encouraged heavier use. Exports are raised 25 million bushels based on the pace of export sales and shipments and on continued export restrictions by major competitor countries. Despite record prices, export commitments for U.S. wheat continue to accumulate raising prospects for higher exports of hard red winter, hard red spring, and durum wheat than projected last month. Ending stocks are projected at 242 million bushels with stocks-to-use dropping to 10 percent, the lowest since 1946/47.The projected range for the season-average farm price is narrowed 5 cents on each end to $6.50 to $6.80 per bushel.

Global 2007/08 wheat production is raised 1.4 million tons this month mostly on increases for Brazil and India, up 0.4 million and 0.9 million tons, respectively, and in line with government estimates. Also raised slightly is output for Australia and EU-27 based on the latest revisions to government estimates. Partly offsetting is a reduction for Saudi Arabia based on lower-than-expected area. (continued on back page)

Wheat Supply and Use (continued from page three)

World imports, exports, and ending stocks for 2007/08 are all projected slightly higher this month with the increase in production. Global exports are raised 0.5 million tons reflecting higher exports by the United States and Brazil. Partly offsetting is a 0.5-million-ton reduction for Argentina on further export delays caused by changes in export licensing procedures. World wheat feeding is raised 0.1 million tons with an increase for Australia reflecting higher production. Global ending stocks are raised 0.7 million tons, but remain at a 30-year low. Lower ending stocks in the United States and Saudi Arabia are more than offset by increases for Argentina, Brazil, EU-27, and India.

World Wheat Supply and Use 1/

Region		Supply			Use			Ending Stocks
		Beginning Stocks	Production	Imports	Domestic Use 2/ Feed	Domestic Use 2/ Total	Exports	
		Million Metric Tons - 2007/08 (Projected)						
World 3/	Feb	125.08	603.59	104.73	99.39	618.97	106.40	109.70
	Mar	125.06	604.96	104.86	99.49	619.62	106.89	110.40
United States	Feb	12.41	56.25	2.45	2.99	31.05	32.66	7.40
	Mar	12.41	56.25	2.45	2.99	31.19	33.34	6.58
Total	Feb	112.66	547.35	102.29	96.40	587.91	73.74	102.31
Foreign	Mar	112.65	548.71	102.41	96.50	588.43	73.55	103.82
Major	Feb	25.34	168.09	6.86	62.65	140.56	41.00	18.72
exporters 4/	Mar	25.34	168.30	6.86	62.75	140.67	40.50	19.32
Argentina	Feb	0.31	15.50	0.01	0.08	5.40	10.00	0.41
	Mar	0.31	15.50	0.01	0.08	5.40	9.50	0.91
Australia	Feb	4.22	13.00	0.08	3.40	6.10	8.00	3.20
	Mar	4.22	13.10	0.08	3.50	6.20	8.00	3.20
Canada	Feb	6.85	20.05	0.28	4.50	9.10	14.00	4.07
	Mar	6.85	20.05	0.28	4.50	9.10	14.00	4.07
EU-27 5/	Feb	13.96	119.54	6.50	54.67	119.97	9.00	11.03
	Mar	13.96	119.65	6.50	54.67	119.97	9.00	11.14
Major	Feb	61.56	170.71	54.00	6.95	219.95	5.65	60.67
importers 6/	Mar	61.58	171.01	53.83	6.95	219.78	5.91	60.73
Brazil	Feb	0.78	3.40	7.00	0.20	10.50	0.04	0.64
	Mar	0.78	3.83	7.00	0.20	10.50	0.30	0.81
China	Feb	35.96	106.00	0.15	4.00	100.50	2.50	39.11
	Mar	35.96	106.00	0.15	4.00	100.50	2.50	39.11
Sel. Mideast 7/	Feb	6.79	20.27	8.75	0.90	29.05	0.55	6.21
	Mar	6.81	20.09	8.58	0.90	28.88	0.55	6.04
N. Africa 8/	Feb	11.18	13.78	17.80	0.15	34.88	0.16	7.73
	Mar	11.18	13.78	17.80	0.15	35.88	0.16	7.73
Pakistan	Feb	2.92	23.00	1.00	0.40	22.40	1.00	3.52
	Mar	2.92	23.00	1.00	0.40	22.40	1.00	3.52
SE Asia 9/	Feb	2.28	0.00	10.20	0.90	10.28	0.43	1.78
	Mar	2.28	0.00	10.20	0.90	10.28	0.43	1.78
Selected Other	Feb	4.50	74.89	2.00	0.20	75.85	0.05	5.49
India	Mar	4.50	75.81	2.00	0.20	75.85	0.05	6.41
FSU-12	Feb	9.60	93.49	5.37	23.68	76.42	22.65	9.39
	Mar	9.60	93.49	5.57	23.68	76.61	22.65	9.39
Russia	Feb	2.38	49.40	1.00	15.40	38.20	12.50	2.08
	Mar	2.38	49.40	1.00	15.40	38.20	12.50	2.08
Kazakhstan	Feb	1.04	16.60	0.02	2.70	7.50	8.50	1.66
	Mar	104	16.60	0.02	2.70	7.50	8.50	1.66
Ukraine	Feb	1.43	13.90	0.35	3.10	12.70	1.50	1.48
	Mar	1.43	13.90	0.35	3.10	12.70	1.50	1.48

1/ Aggregate of local marketing years. 2/ Total foreign and world use adjusted to reflect the differences in world imports and exports. 3/ World imports and exports may not balance due to differences in marketing years, grain in transit, and reporting discrepancies in some countries. 4/ Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the EU-27. 5/ Trade excludes intra-trade. 6/ Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, N. Africa, Pakistan, selected Middle East, and Southeast Asia. 7/ Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, and Oman. 8/ Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. 9/ Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Ag Prices Received
March Hogs & Pigs
March 1 Grain Stocks
Prospective Plantings

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